

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-UK DISCUSSIONS - SCHEDULE AND
ISSUES

1. IN JAN. 19 CONVERSATION WITH CIVAIR ATTACHE, BROWN
OF UK DEPT. OF TRADE URGED THAT NEXT MEETING OF US AND
UK DELEGATIONS, WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL REQUIRE FULL
WEEK, TAKE PLACE BEGINNING FEB. 6, SINCE JAN. 30 NO
LONGER POSSIBLE FOR U.S. HE RECOGNIZED THAT U.S. MIGHT
STILL BE HAMPERED BY RECENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, BUT
FELT THAT CERTAIN TOPICS COULD NOT WAIT FOR DECISION
BEYOND FIRST OF MARCH AT VERY LATEST. BRITISH WOULD BE
UNABLE TO MEET WEEK OF FEB. 13, AND WOULD FACE OBSTACLES
IN WEEK OF FEB. 20, PARTICULARLY ABSENCE OF RAY COLEGATE
OF CAA.

2. BROWN THOUGHT MOST CRITICAL MATTER WAS CHARTER
REGIME. UK WOULD BE RELUCTANT NOTIFY AIRLINES THAT IT
WOULD NO LONGER ACCEPT CAB'S MOST RECENT LIBERALIZATIONS
OF US RULES WITHOUT HAVING FIRST DISCUSSED MATTER WITH
US SIDE. AT SAME TIME, WHILE IT WOULD NOT INSIST ON
CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, IT COULD NOT ACQUIESCE
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IN INDEFINITE DELAY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, DELAY WOULD CAUSE
CONFUSION IN THE CHARTER INDUSTRY, WHICH IN THE ABSENCE
OF BRITISH ACTION TO THE CONTRARY WOULD TEND TO ASSUME
BRITISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE US RULES AND SELL TO TRAVELERS
ON THAT BASIS.

3. BROWN ADDED THAT BRITISH WOULD ALSO PROBABLY WANT TO

TALK ABOUT THE NORTH ATLANTIC FARES SITUATION (WHICH, HE SAID, IS SO "CHAOTIC" THAT ECAC IS PLANNING TO MEET ON THE SUBJECT IN PARIS ON JAN. 25). THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PREPARED SIMPLY TO ALLOW THE AIRLINES TO CHARGE WHAT THEY WISHED. IN PARTICULAR IT FELT THAT BRANIFF'S PROPOSED FARES WERE NON-ECONOMIC AND INTENDED TO SEW UP THE ENTIRE TEXAS MARKET. BRANIFF'S PROPOSED CAPACITY MIGHT ALSO BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH BROWN RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING OTHER SUITABLE AIRCRAFT ON SHORT NOTICE (I.E., A DC-10 OR L-1011, SINCE OLDER JETS ARE LESS ATTRACTIVE TO PASSENGERS) AND SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA THAT CARGO RELATED TO OIL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH SEA MIGHT JUSTIFY A B-747'S BELLY CARGO CAPACITY.

4. FORMAL APPROACH REGARDING DATE FOR NEXT DELEGATION MEETING WILL BE MADE THROUGH BRITISH EMBASSY LONDON, BUT ABOVE REPRESENTS CURRENT THINKING AT UKDOT.

BREWSTER

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